

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

21910 U.S. PTO  
10/620617  
07/17/03

Sir:

This is a request for filing a X continuation or \_\_\_ divisional application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b), of pending prior application:

Serial No. 10/223,722  
Filed on August 20, 2002  
Of Wouter IJDO et al.  
Entitled: VISCOSITY STABLE SMECTITE CLAY SLURRIES  
Examiner: M.A. Marcheschi  
Group: 1755

- X 1. Accompanying this order is a true copy of the prior application as originally filed.

Total pages 24

- \_\_\_ 2. New Formal drawings are being filed herewith consisting of \_\_\_ sheet(s), depicting Figures \_\_\_.

- X 3. Declaration and Power of Attorney:

a. \_\_\_ Newly executed (original or copy)

b. X Copy from prior application

i. \_\_\_ Deletion of Inventors - signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application

- X 4. Incorporation by Reference:

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 3b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

- \_\_\_ 5. Cancel original claims .

6. Small entity status:
- a. ☐ A small entity statement is enclosed
- b. ☐ A statement of small entity status (copy attached) was filed on ☐ in the prior application and status as a small entity is still proper and desired.
- c. ☐ Is no longer claimed

☒ 7. The filing fee is calculated below:

**CLAIMS AS FILED, INCLUDING ANY CLAIMS  
CANCELLED OR ADDED BY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Basic Fee				<u>\$375</u>	<u>\$750</u>
Total Claims	<u>20</u>	-	20 = <u>0</u>	x 9 = \$	18 = \$
Ind. Claims	<u>3</u>	-	3 = <u>0</u>	x 42 = \$	84 = \$
	<u>Multiple Dependent Claims</u>		+ 140 = \$	280 = \$	
	Total			<u>\$</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>

- ☐ 8. Please charge my Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #     ) in the amount of \$     .
- ☒ 9. A check in the amount of \$ 750.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ 10. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 080395.52547CO).
- ☒ 11. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: --This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/223,722, filed August 20, 2002, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/756,610, filed January 8, 2001.--
- ☐ 12. Priority of Appln. No(s).     , filed in      on     , is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119.
- ☐ 13. A certified copy of each said priority document was filed in application Serial No.      on     .
- ☐ 14. The prior application is assigned of record to Elements Specialities, Inc..

X 15. The power of attorney in the prior application is to:

Herbert I. Cantor, Reg. No. 24,392; James F. McKeown, Reg. No. 25,406; Donald D. Evenson, Reg. No. 26,160; Joseph D. Evans, Reg. No. 26,269; Gary R. Edwards, Reg. No. 31,824; and Jeffrey D. Sanok, Reg. No. 32,169.

X a. The power appears in the original application papers in the prior application.

X b. Since the power does not appear in the original application papers, a copy of the power in the prior application is enclosed.

— c. Attached is a duplicate of a Supplemental Declaration which was filed in the prior application to overcome informalities.

X d. Address all future correspondence to:

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300



— 16. Forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 listing prior art made of record in the prior application are attached. A copy of each of the listed references should be available in the prior application file.

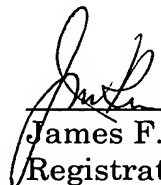
— 17. A Preliminary Amendment is being filed herewith.

X 18. Return Receipt Postcard.

— 19. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

July 17, 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James F. McKeown  
Registration No. 25,406

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JFM:ns